

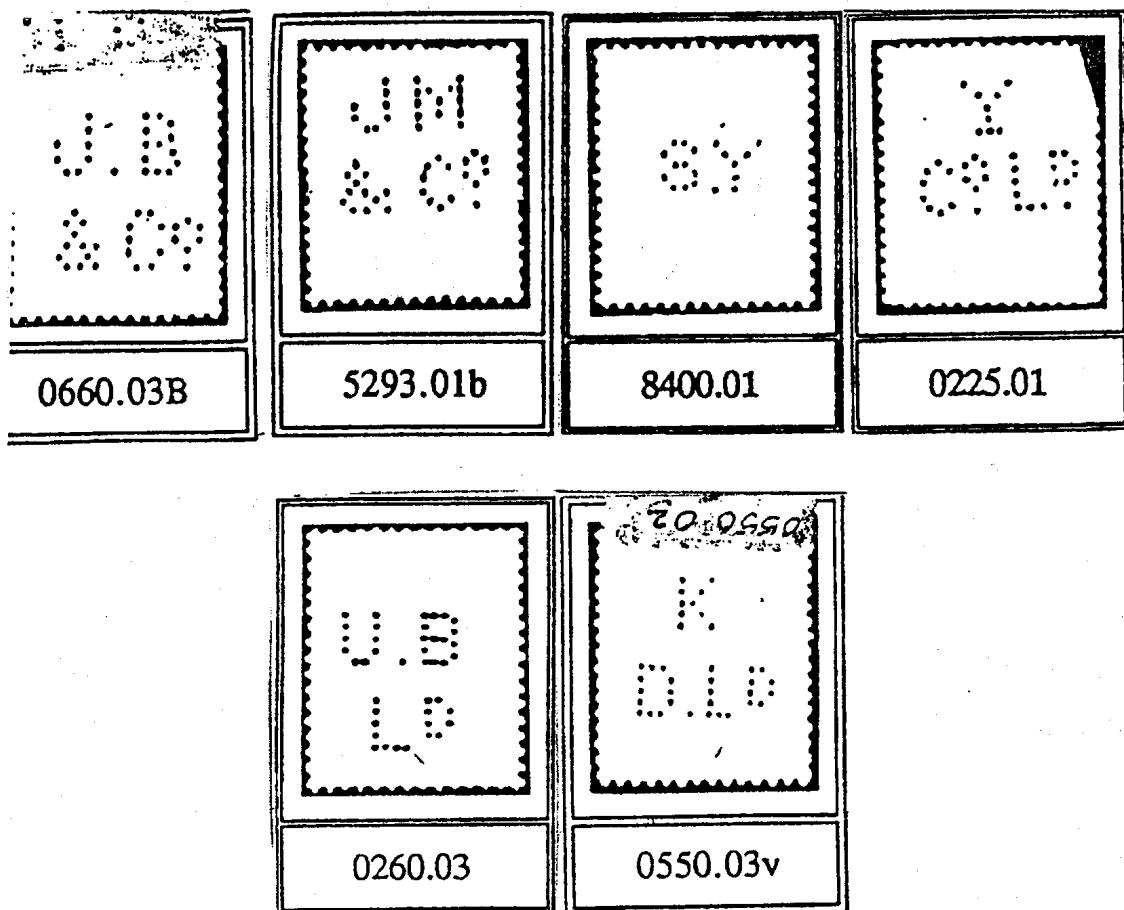
## SOME THOUGHTS ON ALLCHIN DIES

By Dave Hill

We have two long lists of clients for whom Sidney Allchin perforated stamps in 1905 and 1906. With the extra information in the New Illustrated Catalogue on dates and postmarks it is possible to identify some of these dies. In fact the list gives us clues to some of the users where we do not know them.

I offer the following tentative conclusions on possible Allchin alphabets. A word of warning however. We can be 95% sure that after about 1935, Sloper used the alphabet they use to this day, the one with which we are all so familiar: before that date it would appear that each perforator used a different alphabet each time!

I illustrate below some distinctive dies that are almost certainly Allchins. However for much of the time they were capable of neat letters, little different to any other maker.



I don't think this is to any regular grid of pins but it is interesting that as well as producing the two sizes of square corner letters shown, Allchin appear to have been responsible for the dies for Kelly's Directories Ltd (K0550.03v) which does apparently have pins on a regular grid. I can't believe that the pins were removed to make different letters. Perhaps there was a square grid from which all letters were drilled. Hence letters made from straight lines look ok, but curves look odd with square corners and slopes generally must follow diagonal lines of holes. Note particularly the corners of the J's and the U's, and the arms of the Y and the middle of the M are at 45 degrees. The first Co has square corners, the rest look fine.